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ABSTRACT

More than two decades of research have pointed to the connection between childhood maltreatment and delinquency. In addition, recent research confirms that harm is inflicted on children who are subjected to family and community violence. The Child Protection Division was created in an effort to bring child protection to the forefront and to prevent delinquency. The mission of the Child Protection Division is to safeguard children by supporting research and programs on child victimization and their exposure to violence. This bulletin provides information, training, and technical assistance to state, local, and community-based agencies. It discusses the rationale for their work in areas of missing and exploited children and child maltreatment. Some examples of program initiatives include: Safe Start to reduce the impact of family violence on young children; Safe Kids/Safe Streets to reduce child abuse and neglect; Parents Anonymous to strengthen the family through self-help programs; Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program to investigate child sexual exploitation; and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist law enforcement agencies in their search for missing children. A list of references is provided on new and ongoing projects, initiatives, and funding opportunities. (JDM)

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U.S. Department of Justice
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OJJDP
March 2001

Keeping Children Safe: OJJDP's Child Protection Division

Thomas Cullen

Protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect, and other forms of victimization is one of the primary purposes of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This mandate to protect children comes from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which requires OJJDP to conduct activities and programs to prevent delinquency; the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984; and the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. To carry out this mandate more effectively, OJJDP created the Child Protection Division (CPD) in 2000 to oversee its efforts to keep children safe and to develop activities related to child protection issues. This Bulletin outlines CPD's mission and provides brief descriptions of some of its child protection programs and initiatives.

The Mission of the Child Protection Division

The Child Protection Division administers projects, programs, and initiatives related to crimes against children and children's exposure to violence. It provides leadership and funding in the areas of prevention, intervention, treatment, and enforcement. CPD promotes research and effective policies and procedures to address the problems of abused, neglected, missing, and exploited children and children who have been exposed to domestic or community violence. CPD activities include the following:

- **Funding research and evaluation on child victimization and exposure to violence.** One of OJJDP's most extensive research efforts directed at child protection issues is the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART 2).[1] As mandated by the Missing Children's Assistance Act, the purpose of the studies is to determine, for a given year, the actual number of children reported missing, including the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number who are the victims of parental kidnapings, and the number who are recovered.

 Another CPD research project assessed 577 child abduction/murder cases involving 621 victims and 419 offenders. Urban, suburban, and rural

[1] NISMART 2 is the second national study to measure the incidence of each category of missing children. The first study, originally known by the acronym NISMART (now known as NISMART 1), was conducted in 1988 with results published in 1990. A more detailed discussion of NISMART 2 can be found in Hanson, L., 2000, *Second Comprehensive Study of Missing Children*, Bulletin, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

A Message From OJJDP

There are few things that are more disturbing than the abuse and exploitation of children by the very adults who are responsible for protecting and nurturing them.

More than two decades of research have indicated a connection between childhood maltreatment and delinquency. More recent research confirms the harm inflicted on children who are subjected to family and community violence. In recognition of the need to bring child protection to the forefront of our Nation's efforts to prevent delinquency, OJJDP established a Child Protection Division (CPD).

This Bulletin describes CPD and its efforts to safeguard children by supporting research and programs on child victimization and exposure to violence; providing information and training and technical assistance to State, local, and community-based agencies; and developing and demonstrating effective child protection initiatives. The Bulletin also discusses the rationale for OJJDP's work in the areas of missing and exploited children and child maltreatment and describes the scope of the activities of the division.

Protecting children is the responsibility of every adult. Through its Child Protection Division, OJJDP provides the guidance, support, and leadership needed to help families and communities to carry out that important responsibility.

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Missing Children's Assistance Act

The Missing Children's Assistance Act[1] provides the legislative authority for several grants administered by the Child Protection Division. The specific purposes for which these grants can be used are outlined below.

The Act requires OJJDP to take the following actions:

- Facilitate effective coordination among all federally funded programs relating to missing children.
- Establish and operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, or other child 13 years of age or younger whose whereabouts are unknown to her or his legal custodian, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite the child with her or his legal custodian.
- Establish and operate a national resource center and clearinghouse to:
 - Provide information to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals.
 - Coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, and reunite missing children with their legal custodians.
 - Disseminate nationally information about innovative and model missing children's programs, services, and legislation.
- Provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the juvenile criminal justice systems, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of the case of a missing or exploited child and in locating and recovering missing children.
- Conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental kidnapings, and the number of children who are recovered each year.
- Provide State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals with information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children.

To accomplish these goals, the Act authorizes OJJDP to make grants to and enter into contracts with public agencies or nonprofit private organizations. OJJDP's Child Protection Division selects and oversees the programs receiving funds allocated through the Act. CPD monitors these programs, which, as mandated by the Act, are designed to achieve the following goals:

- Educate parents, children, and community agencies and organizations in ways to prevent the abduction and sexual exploitation of children.
- Provide information to assist in the location and return of missing children.
- Aid communities in the collection of materials that would help identify missing children.
- Increase knowledge of and develop effective treatment pertaining to the psychological consequences—for both parents and children—of the abduction of a child, both during the period of disappearance and after the child is recovered, and the sexual exploitation of a missing child.
- Collect detailed data from selected States or localities on the actual investigative practices used by law enforcement agencies in missing children cases.
- Address the particular needs of missing children by minimizing the negative impact of judicial and law enforcement procedures on children who are victims of abuse or sexual exploitation and by promoting the active participation of children and their families in investigations of child abuse or sexual exploitation.
- Address the needs of missing children and their families following the recovery of these children.
- Reduce the likelihood that individuals under 18 years of age will be removed without consent from the control of their legal custodians.
- Establish or operate statewide clearinghouses to assist in locating and recovering missing children.

[1] 42 U.S.C. §§ 5771–5780.

law enforcement agencies (large and small) from 44 States participated in the assessment. The assessment obtained information pertaining to victim and offender characteristics and relationships, offender motivation and post-offense behavior, relationships between evidentiary sites within a homicidal event, and the law enforcement response to these crimes. To enhance law enforcement's understanding of offenders who abduct and murder children for sexual gratification, CPD also supports the FBI in its efforts to interview offenders incarcerated for abduction murders of missing children.

OJJDP supports the work of the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC), located at the University of New Hampshire. CCRC helps young victims of crime by providing high quality research, statistics, and education to policymakers, law enforcement personnel, child welfare practitioners, and the public. The crimes of concern to CCRC include physical and sexual abuse, abduction, homicide, rape, assault, property offenses, and the victimization of children on the Internet.

CPD-supported evaluations of programs and initiatives that focus on collaboration and community partnerships, such as the current evaluations

of Safe Kids/Safe Streets and Safe Start,[2] identify best practices and effective approaches to preventing and responding to child victimization and exposure to violence. These evaluations allow child protection practitioners and professionals to learn about what works and what does not work and to build on the successful efforts of their colleagues.

- **Providing information, training, and technical assistance.** CPD is dedicated to enhancing the Nation's capacity to prevent child victimization and respond to victims, witnesses, and their families. Through publications and training and technical assistance programming, CPD provides information about promising programs, best practices, and emerging trends to child protection and juvenile justice professionals.

 OJJDP publications, such as the *Child Abuse and Exploitation: Investigative Techniques* training manual, the Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse, and the Crimes Against Children Bulletin series, address a number of child protection issues. The child abuse manual, which is used as part of the curriculum of the Missing and Exploited Children's Training and Technical Assistance Program (see page 5), provides law enforcement officers and other professionals with comprehensive and up-to-date information about a variety of topics related to child abuse investigations. It offers investigators practical advice and strategies to guide them through the investigative process and help them understand applicable legal and evidentiary requirements. The Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse are a series of compact booklets that complement formal investigative training by providing practical guidance in an easily accessible format. The subjects of the series' current 13 guides include the formation of multidisciplinary investigative teams, recognition of injuries caused by abuse, techniques for collecting evidence and interviewing victims and witnesses, and investigative considerations in cases of child sexual exploitation involving computers. The Bulletins in OJJDP's Crimes Against Children series present the latest information about child victimization, including analyses of crime victimization statistics, studies of child victims and their special needs, and descriptions of programs and approaches that address these needs. These Bulletins have covered topics such as kidnaping, sexual abuse, and the reporting of crimes against children to police or other authorities. Individuals interested in obtaining OJJDP publications can call the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800–638–8736 or access OJJDP's Web site (www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org).

 OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) collaborates with approximately 60 training and technical assistance providers to ensure that its many constituencies have access to appropriate services.

Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990[1] authorizes grants administered by the Child Protection Division and mandates the specific purposes for which the grants are to be used. These purposes are described below.

The Act requires OJJDP to establish a children's advocacy program to accomplish the following goals:

- Focus attention on child victims by assisting communities in developing child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children and families.
- Provide support for nonoffending family members.[2]
- Enhance coordination between community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.
- Train physicians and other health care and mental health care professionals in the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse so that trained medical personnel will be available to provide medical support to community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.

The Act also requires OJJDP to make grants for the following purposes:

- To develop and implement multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs.
- To provide training and technical assistance to attorneys and others instrumental to the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases in State or Federal courts, for the purpose of improving the quality of criminal prosecution of such cases.
- To expand the Court Appointed Special Advocate initiative.
- To provide training and technical assistance to judicial personnel and attorneys, particularly personnel and practitioners in juvenile and family courts, and to facilitate administrative reform in juvenile and family courts.
- To develop one or more model training and technical assistance programs to improve the judicial system's handling of child abuse and neglect cases.
- To establish programs, developed by State courts or judicial administrators, that provide or contract for the implementation of training and technical assistance to judicial personnel and attorneys in juvenile and family courts and administrative reform in juvenile and family courts.

[1] 42 U.S.C. §§ 13001–13004, §§ 13011–13014, §§ 13021–13024.

[2] The term "nonoffending family member" means a member of the family of a victim of child abuse other than a member who has been convicted or accused of committing an act of child abuse.

[2] See page 6 for descriptions of these programs.

NTTAC's Web site (www.nttac.org) allows users to search directories of training and technical assistance providers, learn about upcoming training events, locate training and technical assistance resource materials, and link to organizations and individuals with expertise in particular areas of the juvenile justice field. Users may also call a toll-free number (800–830–4031) to discuss their needs with a resource facilitator.

The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence (NCCEV) is a resource center that provides training and technical assistance and operates a clearinghouse that collects and distributes information on children's exposure to violence. Access to its services and information is available through its Web site (www.nccev.org) and toll-free phone number (877–496–2238). NCCEV and several other CPD-supported training and technical assistance efforts are described later in this Bulletin.

- **Developing and demonstrating effective child protection initiatives.** As authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984, and the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, CPD provides funding to support a wide range of child protection programs. Among the initiatives supported by CPD is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a clearinghouse and resource center that collects and distributes data regarding missing and exploited children, provides critical services to families and law enforcement, and operates a national toll-free hotline (800–843–5678). NCMEC and many other child protection initiatives are described later in this Bulletin.

CPD works in partnership with State, local, and tribal government agencies. It works with other service providers, including child welfare services, courts, domestic violence services, early childhood development services, medical services, emergency response services, substance abuse and mental health services, law enforcement agencies, schools, family support services, and social services. CPD also collaborates with related Federal and international agencies, public officials, community residents, families, service consumers, faith organizations, businesses, and the media.

Child Protection Projects and Initiatives

CPD supports programs that:

- Improve overall multisystem prevention of, intervention with, treatment of, and response to child victimization and exposure to violence.
- Enhance the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.
- Protect the rights of, secure safe and permanent placements for, and disseminate information about abused and neglected youth.
- Prevent, interdict, and investigate online crimes against children.
- Prevent and increase awareness of the negative consequences associated with children's exposure to violence.
- Support law enforcement agencies in the search for missing children and enhance the investigation and prosecution of abduction cases.

The following are some of the OJJDP-sponsored programs and initiatives that are funded through the Child Protection Division. Contact information for each is provided at the end of this Bulletin.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Initiative

The purpose of this initiative is to increase the number of abused and neglected children who are represented in court by a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASA programs benefit abused and neglected children who are under court custody (or are at risk of being removed from their homes) by providing them with timely, sensitive, and effective representation in dependency hearings. The initiative is run by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, which strives to increase CASA representation of dependent children through several strategies:

- Providing specialized training, technical assistance, information, and resources to support program startup, expansion, and management; volunteer recruitment and retention; resource development; community outreach; and media relations.
- Distributing grants to implement and expand CASA programs nationwide.
- Providing planning grants and technical assistance support to tribal courts and nations for the development of tribal CASA programs.

There are about 850 CASA programs in 49 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. More than 47,000 volunteers and 44 State organizations offer support services to programs within their States. Training and technical assistance services are available to courts, judges, attorneys, CASA program staff and volunteers, community organizations, and the general public.

Child Abuse Prosecution Training and Technical Assistance

The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse (NCPCA) offers training and technical assistance in the prosecution of child abuse cases. NCPCA staff provide prosecutors at the local, State, and Federal levels with information on case law and developmentally appropriate forensic interviewing, individualized support for trial preparation and presentation, access to experts and presenters, and assistance with investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect. Workshops, conferences, and informational materials provided by NCPCA also benefit law enforcement officials, social workers, therapists, and other personnel involved in the investigation of child abuse cases. Training and technical assistance services are available to prosecutors, investigators, and related personnel nationwide.

Children's Advocacy Center Program

The purpose of this initiative, which was established through the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and is implemented by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and four Regional Children's Advocacy Centers, is to increase the number of communities with children's advocacy centers (CAC's) through training and technical assistance, information resources, and funding support. CAC's are facility-based programs that employ multidisciplinary teams to investigate and respond to cases of abuse and neglect. CAC's bring together police, prosecutors, medical and mental health professionals, and child protective services workers. As a result, these individuals are able to better coordinate and manage child abuse and neglect cases, reduce trauma to the child victims, and improve support and treatment for victims and their families. More than 500 CAC programs are affiliated with NCA, of which about half are full-member programs, nearly 100 are associate-member

programs, and the rest are developing programs. Currently, 26 NCA chapters (including a Native American chapter) work with NCA and the four Regional CAC's to increase the number and capacity of CAC's. Training and technical assistance services are available to individuals, agencies, and communities.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

OJJDP established the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program in response to the FY 1998 Justice Appropriations Act, Public Law 105–119, which directed OJJDP to stimulate creation of "State and local law enforcement cyber units to investigate child sexual exploitation." Currently, 30 task forces—composed of more than 125 law enforcement agencies—participate in the program. Each task force provides forensic, prevention, and investigative assistance to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and other professionals working on child victimization issues. Under the ICAC Task Force Program Investigative Satellite Initiative, OJJDP also provides small one-time grants for State and local law enforcement personnel to acquire specialized training and equipment. Additionally, OJJDP will sponsor—depending on the availability of funds—annual conferences for agencies participating in the Task Force Program Investigative Satellite Initiative to discuss emerging trends in software and hardware and their relevance to criminal activity and investigative efforts.

NCMEC also provides important elements of the ICAC Task Force Program by offering the multitiered Protecting Children Online training program and the CyberTipline, which has received more than 25,000 reports regarding suspicious activity on the Internet since March 1998.[3]

Missing and Exploited Children's Training and Technical Assistance Program

This program, funded through a grant to Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), provides training and technical assistance to State and local agencies that serve missing, exploited, and abused children. FVTC currently offers five different week-long training programs:

- Child Abuse and Exploitation Investigative Techniques.
- Child Fatality Investigation.
- Child Sexual Exploitation Investigation.
- Responding to Missing and Abducted Children.
- Team Investigative Process for Missing, Abused, and Exploited Children.

Program descriptions, schedules, and registration information are available on FVTC's Web site (www.foxvalley.tec.wi.us/ojjdp).

National Center for Children Exposed to Violence

The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence is a training and technical assistance and resource facility addressing the issue of children's exposure to violence. NCCEV was established to support the Safe Start initiative's demonstration sites (see page 6), enhance public awareness of the negative consequences to children of exposure to violence, and increase community capacity to respond to that exposure. NCCEV operates a national clearinghouse and resource center that serves as a repository of information about the developmental risks and long-term consequences to children of exposure to violence. Training and technical assistance services are targeted primarily to the Safe Start sites. Some support is also provided to Child Development-Community Policing sites.[4] Information resources—including NCCEV publications and a bibliography database—are available to the general public through NCCEV's Web site (www.nccev.org).

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a private, nonprofit organization mandated by Congress that works in cooperation with CPD to assist law enforcement agencies throughout the United States in the search for missing children. Since 1984, NCMEC has worked with law enforcement on 71,537 missing child cases, resulting in the recovery of 53,581 children. NCMEC provides law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, doctors, therapists, and other multidisciplinary professionals with training, technical assistance, research, and publications in many subject areas:

- Child exploitation.
- Crimes against children.
- Sexual abuse.
- Physical abuse.
- Child fatalities.
- Computer-assisted exploitation of children.
- Domestic violence and its nexus to child abuse.
- Domestic abduction of children.
- Community prosecution.
- Sexually violent predators.
- Trial advocacy for prosecutors.
- Victim assistance.
- Registration of sexual offenders.

NCMEC services include a national computer network linking NCMEC with State, Federal, and international law enforcement agencies; Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team), a volunteer corps of 110 professionals who have retired from Federal, State, and local law enforcement; and missing child alerts, which are posted on the Internet and distributed via satellite through televised public service announcements produced by Fox Television's "America's Most Wanted."

National Center on Child Fatality Review

The National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR) was created to improve child safety and to promote more effective risk assessment, accountability, and child abuse prevention by collecting and sharing of information regarding severe and fatal child abuse and neglect. NCFR serves as a clearinghouse, collecting and disseminating information and resources related to child deaths from abuse and neglect and providing training and technical assistance to child death review teams. NCFR enables local, State, regional, and national entities to communicate and

[3] Additional information about CPD's Internet Crimes Against Children Program is available online at the following Web sites: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/fedreg/081799.pdf and www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/press/ojp000510.html.

[4] The Child Development-Community Policing Program (CD–CP) is a collaboration between law enforcement, juvenile justice, and mental health professionals on behalf of children and families exposed to violence in their communities. CD–CP was developed by NCCEV in partnership with the New Haven Department of Police Services and the New Haven County Office of Juvenile Probation, with support from OJJDP, the Office for Victims of Crimes, and the Violence Against Women Office.

learn from one another to improve programs and develop activities targeted at decreasing the number of child fatalities caused by abuse and neglect. NCFR's Web site (ican-ncfr.org) provides information that can help child death review teams and other professionals design effective intervention and prevention services. The National Advisory Board developed by NCFR encourages a better understanding of child fatalities from abuse and neglect and provides a national focus on suspected child abuse and neglect.

Parental Abductions Prosecution Training and Technical Assistance

CPD funds training and technical assistance related to the prosecution of parental abduction cases through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which also provides training on the investigation of family abduction cases. Training includes the role of the prosecutor in family abduction cases, relevant law, and prosecutorial considerations. In addition, NCMEC provides technical assistance for prosecutors in the areas of trial strategies and tactics, conducts legal and nonlegal research on relevant topics, and publishes articles and monographs on various topics in the field.

Parents Anonymous®

OJJDP began providing grant support to Parents Anonymous, Inc., in FY 1994. The purpose of OJJDP's support was to enhance the capability of Parents Anonymous' State and local organizations to prevent child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency by strengthening families through self-help programs. Parents Anonymous provides consultation, training, and technical assistance to agencies, policymakers, and parents. Parents Anonymous supports new programs that use a shared leadership approach and promote parent and professional partnerships in all aspects of family strengthening. Parents Anonymous builds on past program activities to provide services to a range of cultural groups (including American Indian, African American, Asian, Latino, and Appalachian families) and to pilot materials designed to expand and enhance its Children's Program. Support is available to parents, community-based organizations, State and local child welfare agencies, family support centers, schools, early childhood education programs, and juvenile justice organizations, among others.

Permanent Families for Abused and Neglected Children

Permanency planning is the process of helping children who are at risk of being removed from their families of origin to remain safely with these families or finding caring and safe families for children who are in temporary out-of-home placement. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Permanency Planning Project disseminates information on improvements in court practices regarding child abuse and neglect cases, focusing in particular on lessons learned from the Model Dependency Courts authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. The technical assistance available through the project provides judges, court personnel, and related professionals with up-to-date information on successful court efforts to bolster the following nationwide efforts:

- Preventing unnecessary foster care placements through early identification of and service delivery to families of at-risk and abused children and adolescents.
- Making it possible for the families of children already in care to receive therapeutic and support services and to be safely reunified.
- Ensuring permanent adoptive homes for children when family reunification is not feasible.

The project's training and technical assistance services are designed to inform judges of the frequency and severity of child abuse and neglect. These services provide judges with education and resource tools to improve the government's response to these children and emphasize the continuing need for permanency planning in each child's life. In the time since the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, training has also focused on increasing understanding of and compliance with this law.

Safe Kids/Safe Streets

The Safe Kids/Safe Streets initiative is a 5½-year demonstration project designed to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later juvenile or adult criminality. The initiative seeks to reduce child and adolescent abuse and neglect (including children's witnessing of violence) and to prevent child fatalities. Funded jointly by OJJDP, the Violence Against Women Office, and the Executive Office for Weed and Seed, the initiative is administered by CPD through a cross-agency management team. Safe Kids/Safe Streets provides fiscal and technical support for local efforts to restructure and strengthen the criminal justice, juvenile justice, child welfare, family services, and educational systems in their efforts to respond to child victimization. Five demonstration sites—Chittenden County (Burlington), VT; Huntsville, AL; Kansas City, MO; Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Sainte Marie, MI; and Toledo, OH—develop, implement, and/or expand interagency strategies to be more comprehensive and proactive in helping children and adolescents and their families. The initiative includes national and local evaluation components and provides coordinated technical assistance. Safe Kids/Safe Streets sites are engaged in a range of activities related to prevention, intervention, and systems reform. These activities include implementing tailored responses by child protective services agencies to maltreatment reports, developing home visitation programs, implementing CAC models of multidisciplinary investigative teams, creating neighborhood-based programs, instituting court reforms, coordinating domestic violence and child abuse responses and services, and expanding family strengthening services.

Safe Start

The Safe Start initiative seeks to prevent or at least reduce the impact of family and community violence on young children (primarily from birth to 6 years of age) by creating more comprehensive service delivery systems. Safe Start communities work to expand existing partnerships among service providers in the following fields: early childhood education/development, health, mental health, family support and strengthening, domestic violence, substance abuse prevention and treatment, crisis intervention, child welfare, law enforcement, and the law. This comprehensive service delivery system should improve access to, delivery of, and quality of services for young children already exposed or at high risk of exposure to violence. A national evaluation and local evaluations at each site are currently being conducted, and training and technical assistance are being provided

by NCCEV. The Safe Start communities are Baltimore, MD; Bridgeport, CT; Chatham County, NC; Chicago, IL; Pinellas County, FL; Rochester, NY; San Francisco, CA; Spokane, WA; and Washington County, ME.[5]

Conclusion

Keeping children safe is not only CPD's legislative mandate but its mission. The grantees who run the programs and initiatives administered by CPD share this common goal. By providing information, training, and technical assistance, grantees work at the national, State, tribal, and local levels to improve the responses of the justice system and related systems to crimes against children and children's exposure to violence, increase public awareness about these issues, and, ultimately, prevent them from occurring. For updated information about CPD's new and ongoing projects, initiatives, and funding opportunities, contact CPD using the information provided below.

[5] Additional information about the Safe Start initiative is available online at the following Web sites: www.nccev.org/safe_start.html, www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/fedreg/safestart.pdf, and www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/press/ojp000229.html.

For Further Information

For further information about CPD and its mission, contact:

Child Protection Division
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810 Seventh Street NW.
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202–616–3637
202–353–9093 (fax)
E-mail: laney@ojp.usdoj.gov
Internet: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

For further information about the projects and initiatives described in this Bulletin, contact:

Court Appointed Special Advocate Initiative
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
100 West Harrison Street, North Tower, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119
800–628–3233
206–270–0078 (fax)
Internet: www.casanet.org

Child Abuse Prosecution Training and Technical Assistance
National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse
American Prosecutors Research Institute
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510
Alexandria, VA 22314
703–549–4253
703–549–6259 (fax)
Internet: www.ndaa-apri.org/apri/NCPCA/index.html

Children's Advocacy Center Program
National Children's Alliance
1319 F Street NW., Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20004
800–239–9950
202–639–0597
Internet: www.nca-online.org

Crimes against Children Research Center
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824
603–862–1888
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Internet: www.unh.edu/ccrc/

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Internet: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/fedreg/081799.pdf

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National Center for Children Exposed to Violence
Child Study Center
Yale University School of Medicine
P.O. Box 207900
230 South Frontage Road
New Haven, CT 06520–7900
877–49–NCCEV (877–496–2238)
203–785–4608 (fax)
Internet: www.nccev.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
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Alexandria, VA 22314–3175
703–274–3900
703–274–2222 (fax)
Internet: www.missingkids.com

National Center on Child Fatality Review
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)
4024 North Durfee Avenue
El Monte, CA 91732
626–455–4587
626–444–4851 (fax)
Internet: ican-ncfr.org

Parental Abductions Prosecution Training and Technical Assistance
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314–3175
703–274–3900
703–274–2222 (fax)
Internet: www.missingkids.com

Parents Anonymous, Inc.
675 W. Foothill Boulevard, Suite 222
Claremont, CA 91711
909–621–6184
909–625–6304 (fax)
Internet: www.parentsanonymous-natl.org

Permanent Families for Abused and Neglected Children: A National Training and Technical Assistance Project
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
775–327–5300
775–327–5306 (fax)
Internet: www.pppncjfcj.org

Safe Kids/Safe Streets: Community Approaches to Reducing Abuse and Neglect and Preventing Delinquency
National Civic League
1319 F Street NW., Suite 204
Washington, DC 20004
202–783–2961
202–347–2161 (fax)
E-mail: bill@ncdlc.org
Internet: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/safekids/index.html

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Office of Justice Programs
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Safe Start
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
202–307–5911
202–307–2093 (fax)
E-mail: krackek@ojp.usdoj.gov
Internet: www.ncccev.org/safe_start.html

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